



UNIONVILLE MEADOWS MESSENGER

January 2017

Principal - LEEANNE HUGHES-FERNANDES

Vice Principal - Nancy Tsang

Unionville Meadows P. S. 355 South Unionville Avenue, Markham, Ontario L3R 5C8

Phone: (905) 479-4795 Fax: (905) 479-1105

Website: www.unionvillemeadows.ps.yrdsb.ca

JANUARY AT A GLANCE

9	Welcome Back
12	Gr.1-8 Winter Wishes Concert at 6:30pm
12, 13, 16	Dental Screening (JK/SK, 2, 4, 6 and 8)
13	Spirit Day (Stuffed Animal Day)
20	PA Day
	Baby Sitting Course (Begins at 9:00am)
25	Electrical Safety & Conservation Presentation
26	Junior Co-Ed Volleyball tournament @ Armadale
	School Council meeting at 6:30pm
28	Lunar New Year



Message from the Principal's Desk

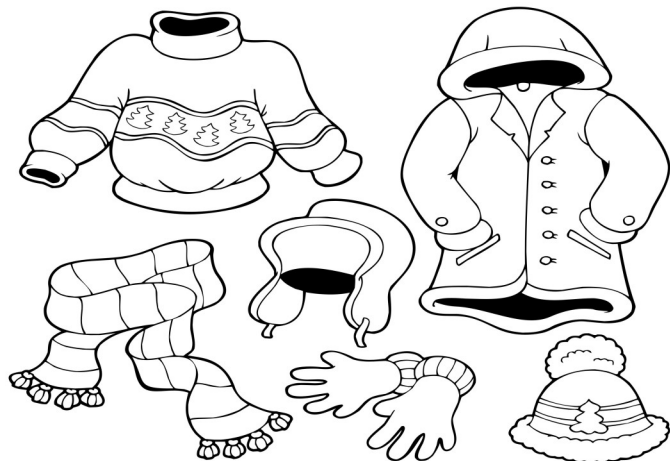
Happy New Year to all of our families! We hope that you had a wonderful holiday filled with the love of family and friends. Thank you to all the families who came out to our Kindergarten Winter Wishes Concert in December. Our gym was filled to capacity for the evening. Our staff and students worked very hard for the performance. As well, our Food Drive was a huge success and we are very proud of our staff and students who organized this initiative and our school community who donated generously. As we enter the New Year, we look forward to continued messages of peace and acts of goodwill. We are also looking forward to seeing the Gr.1-8 Winter Wishes concert on Thursday, January 12, 2017. Bring your tickets and we will see you there.

As we approach the end of Term one, we remain committed to our learning goals for the year. We remind all parents of the importance of being involved in your child's school life and to support them in setting goals that are achievable and attainable. We look forward to working together on these goals in partnership over the next few months. Both teachers and the administration look forward to your continued support.

*Leeanne Hughes-
Fernandas & Nancy Tsang*

Dressing for winter

Now that the colder temperatures have arrived please make sure your children come to school dressed for the weather. We monitor weather conditions daily and will keep students inside during severe weather. The rest of the time the students will play outside during morning and lunch recesses. It is helpful if you label these items so they can be returned if lost.



Would you enjoy **Collaboratively**
learning the Ontario curriculum
through **the Arts**?

If so, the York Region District School Board offers an **Elementary Integrated Arts Program** at **Baythorn Public School**. If you are currently in grades four or five you may apply for the **arts@baythorn program**, where you will have the opportunity to explore the disciplines of Dance, Drama, Visual Arts, and Music in a **cooperative learning environment**.

To learn more about the **arts@baythorn** program, you and your family are invited to attend an information evening at Baythorn Public School on:

Thursday, January 19, 2017 @ 7:00 p.m.

Applications will be available at Bit.ly/arts_application2017 online after the January 19th, 2017 info night.

If you require further information, please call us at Baythorn Public School (905) 889-7992.

Kate Kurek
Principal

The Arts Team

Meytal Daniels
Vice Principal



French Immersion Information Sessions and Registrations

Information sessions for the French Immersion (FI) program will take place at French Immersion schools on **January 19, 2017 at 7 p.m.** Please visit YRDSB's website in January 2017 (<http://www.yrdsb.ca/Programs/fi/Pages/Program-Locations.aspx>) to find the FI program location for your elementary school location. FI registration will begin January 20, 2017. Parents or guardians of Senior Kindergarten students entering Grade 1 in 2017, and wishing to enrol in the FI Program, can visit or call the school office and request an *Office Index Card - short version*. The Office Index Card must be signed by the principal of the home school. Parents or guardians then take this form, along with one piece of identification showing their address to the designated FI program location to register between January 20 and February 10, 2017. This eliminates the need to provide duplicate enrollment information or to pre-register.

YRDSB's FI Accommodation Plan provides long-term consistency and equity of access to all students in York Region and will enable YRDSB to continue to offer the FI program to all who wish to enrol. The FI program will be offered in Dual Track or Single Track settings, in a variety of configurations. In order to meet community needs and optimize available space in our schools, a community's Grade 1-8 FI program may be provided over more than one school during the course of a student's FI education. This will allow flexibility in addressing community needs and the opportunity to use existing space in schools. More information is available on the Board's website: www.yrdsb.ca. Please note: Some of the FI accommodation plans will require facility modifications or the development of new schools and will require short-term transition plans that might include overflow while we work toward the long-term vision. Overflow refers to situations in which the Board directs students to attend a school other than their community school or optional program for a specific period of time, as defined in Policy #108.

Kindergarten Registration to Commence January 20, 2017



Kindergarten registration will commence on January 20, 2017 for the 2017-18 school year. Registration forms are available on YRDSB's website: www.yrdsb.ca. Children who turn four or five years old during 2017, live within the school boundary and whose parents are public school tax supporters will be eligible to register for kindergarten. A kindergarten information session for parents is being planned for this spring. For more information please visit the YRDSB website or contact the school.



ECO-SCHOOL UPDATE

LET'S REDUCE OUR CARBON FOOTPRINT!

Dear Parents/Guardians and students,

We hear about climate change and global warming all the time, but do we really understand the effects? Well, scientists have proven that the biggest contributors to climate change is human activity and the things we do in our daily lives. Simple things we do such as turning on the heat in our homes in the winter time can affect the climate of our planet, by contributing to the greenhouse effect. When greenhouse gases are released into our planet, the atmosphere acts like a blanket which prevents the heat of the gases from escaping, which can eventually melt our polar ice caps, a result of global warming. The melting of our polar ice caps can cause many problems for our future. All of this is completely true and happening right in front of our eyes and many of us are still not taking part in changing our actions.

Whether it is driving to work or sitting in a room with heating, we cause pollution. Greenhouse gases are released into the atmosphere, and comes down in the form of acid precipitation. Forests and other organisms are harmed in this process. When we turn our heating a couple of degrees up, we don't necessarily realise the footprint that we leave. In order to generate the electricity that provides us with the heat, again, greenhouse gases are emitted. All of this greenhouse gas? It heats up our planet. While a certain amount is necessary to keep us from freezing to death, too much can cause problems. Water levels will start to rise, and already, we are experiencing these changes. Some islands are slowly being covered up with water, and many people are immigrating to other countries for this reason. Unfortunately, the people the most affected are also the ones that leave the least footprints. Canada and America are one of the countries that impact our planet the most. So next time you take a 30 minute shower, turn the heat up all the way, or insist that your dad drives you to school, think of the impacts that you have made.

Parents, of all people, should know how to reduce their own carbon footprints. Some ways that you can do this is to reduce the amount of time spent driving, or to drive a low carbon vehicle. When possible, we urge you to take alternatives to driving, such as riding a bike or walking. Taking public transportation and carpooling also reduces the CO₂ emissions drastically. Low carbon vehicles emit much less CO₂ than regular vehicles, such as electric cars, which emit *no* CO₂.

However, there are ways to reduce your carbon footprint at home. This includes sealing and insulating your home, which will reduce drafts in your household so that you will not have to turn up your air conditioner or heating system. Eating more locally-produced and organic foods will reduce the greenhouse gas emissions caused by transporting foods. Cutting dairy and meat products out of your diet will reduce the amounts of CO₂ released into the atmosphere drastically. Other ways to reduce your carbon footprint are to simply turn off your lights when not in use, to reduce, reuse, and recycle, and to reduce water usage. So be the change you want to see in the world.

By. Ealy, Alicia, & Alena from the Green Team

FOOD DRIVE 2016

Every year our school collects and donates food to the Markham food bank, located on 190 Bullock Drive. In December, our school collected many items that were donated by our families. The donation was very much appreciated. We were grateful that such a large number of food and person hygiene items were brought in because about 10,000 people use the food bank in Markham. Thank you for making a difference in our community.

Many of our students connected this opportunity with math by participating in our Food Bank Challenge. Teachers created math challenges using the items collected in their classroom where students learned to sort, make patterns, measure and to estimate. This was a great way to connect our learning to the community and it was an excellent way to engage our students.



We're starting our New Year off by celebrating healthy choices!

Our grade four students are taking the lead in spreading tobacco-free messages throughout our school as they learn about the health risks associated with tobacco use through their Health and Physical Education curriculum. Ask your children what they learned this week and start the discussion at home!

- Take advantage of opportunities to discuss the health risks of tobacco
- Talk about peer pressure and the role of the media
- Work with your child to practice saying 'no'
- Make the conversation meaningful by relating it to something they enjoy (e.g. the effects of smoking on their ability to play sports, dance, etc.)

Together we can make the healthy choice the easy choice!



For more information, visit **Health Canada** at www.hc-sc.gc.ca



1-800-361-5653
TTY: 1-866-252-9933

York Region Health Connection

Community and Health Services
Public Health

www.york.ca



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